IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-40 (Cancelled)

41(Amended). A GILR protein encoded by the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 or by a nucleotide sequence capable of hybridizing with SEQ ID NO:1, under hybridization conditions of 5 x SSC, 5 x Denhardt's solution, 1% SDS, 100 μl tRNA, and 20 mM sodium pyrophosphate (pH 6.8) at 42°C and under washing conditions of 0.2 x SSC, 0.1% SDS at 65°C ~~under stringent conditions~~, wherein said GILR protein is capable of inhibiting apoptosis and stimulating lymphocyte activity.

42(Currently amended). The GILR protein of claim 41 encoded by a nucleotide sequence capable of hybridizing to SEQ ID NO:1 and comprising ~~which comprises~~ an amino acid sequence with no more than ten amino acid residue ~~sequence~~ changes from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said GILR protein ~~and~~ is capable of inhibiting apoptosis and stimulating lymphocyte activity.

43(Previously Amended). A GILR protein of claim 42, wherein said GILR protein is chemically modified by being conjugated or complexed with molecules facilitating or enhancing the transport of said GILR protein across the cell membrane and wherein the chemically modified GILR protein has the same or higher biological activity as said GILR protein.

44(Previously Amended). A pharmaceutical composition for the inhibition of apoptosis in cells or for stimulating lymphocyte activation, comprising, as an active ingredient, the chemically modified GILR protein of claim 43.

45(Previously Added). A pharmaceutical composition for the inhibition of apoptosis in cells or for stimulating lymphocyte activation, comprising, as an active ingredient, the GILR protein of claim 42.

46(Previously Added). A pharmaceutical composition for the inhibition of apoptosis in cells or for stimulating lymphocyte activation, comprising, as an active ingredient, the GILR protein of claim 41.

47(Previously Amended). A GILR protein of claim 41, wherein said GILR protein is chemically modified by being conjugated or complexed with molecules facilitating or enhancing the transport of said GILR protein across cell membrane and wherein the chemically modified GILR protein has the same or higher biological activity as said GILR protein.

48(Previously Amended). A pharmaceutical composition for the inhibition of apoptosis in cells or for stimulating lymphocyte activation, comprising, as an active ingredient, the chemically modified GILR protein of claim 47.